

Immunization Registry Progress in Tennessee

Immunization Coverage in Tennessee

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 79%. This coverage rate is one percentage point below the national average (80%).

Facts about Tennessee Immunization Information System

- The Tennessee Immunization Information System collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Tennessee.
- The targeted age group for the Tennessee Immunization Information System is all children born on or after January 1, 1994.
- Currently, entities which link with the registry include:
 - Vital Records Department;
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program;
 - Public health Clinic Patient Management/Billing System; and
 - Managed Care Organizations.
- As of June 21, 1999:
 - 62% of children less than 6 years old were enrolled in the registry; and
 - 45% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

Other unique qualities about the Tennessee Immunization Information System

- Tennessee has two projects underway and a new initiative that were not mentioned in the annual report. The most important, and possibly unique, project is the electronic immunization data exchange with managed care organizations. This program is now functioning and has enabled over 118,000 records to be added to the Immunization Registry. This program is, as far as known, the first statewide registry to accomplish this data exchange. The process will allow physicians and insurers to use billing data, quality assessment data, and other information received by users to report immunizations to the Registry. The Immunization Program is now connected with over 250 physicians and practices through a group email system. This allows for the rapid distribution of information, new immunization requirements, and vaccine related issues. This is a joint venture with the Tennessee Society of Pediatrics and the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians. This program removes many of the logistical and financial barriers to physicians reporting to the Registry.
- Tennessee's Registry also is being used to identify children at increased risk for being insufficiently immunized. This includes two distinct risk groups: 1) children born with two or more living siblings; and 2) children starting their basic immunizations at greater

than 120 days. Both of these groups have completion rates significantly lower than the general population. Reports identifying these children routinely are generated and the children are assigned to health department staff for follow up.

Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes

A new initiative is underway. The Immunization Program is working with a private foundation to secure funding for an Internet access to the Registry. This will allow physicians, hospitals, and other providers. to more quickly access the Registry either to ascertain a child's immunization status or update a child's immunization record.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Tennessee

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